



Safe to Eat Workgroup (STEW) Meeting Notes



Wednesday, October 30, 2024
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM (Pacific)

[Link to Meeting Slides](#) | [Link to Meeting Recording](#)

Agenda Overview

Item	Topic	Lead	Time
1.	Roll Call and Agenda Review	Jay Davis	9:30 AM (10 min)
2.	Information: Quick Updates Desired Outcome: Inform and update the STEW	Jay Davis	9:40 AM (20 min)
3.	Information: 2024 Sampling and Analysis Update Desired Outcome: Inform and update the STEW	Autumn Bonnema	10:00 AM (20 min)
4.	Information: Final Long-term Monitoring Plan (2025-2029) Desired Outcome: Inform and update the STEW	Jay Davis, Anna Holder	10:20 AM (30 min)
Break			10:50 AM (10 min)
5.	Information: Final Monitoring Plan for 2025 (Lakes) Desired Outcome: Inform and update the STEW	Jay Davis	11:00 AM (30 min)
6.	Discussion: 2025 STEW Meeting Dates Desired Outcome: Inform, get feedback from the STEW	Anna Holder	11:30 AM (10 min)
7.	Wrap-up and Adjourn	Anna Holder	11:40 AM (10 min)

Agenda Details

Item 1. Roll Call and Agenda Review

- See [slides](#) (3-4) and [recording](#) for full discussion

Program/STEW Leads

Ali Dunn (SWAMP)
 Anna Holder (SWAMP)
 Jay Davis (SFEI)

Peer Review Panel

Harry Ohlendorf (Independent)
 Christopher (Chris) Schmitt (U.S. Geological Survey)

OEHHA

Loren Chumney
 Tran Pham
 Wesley (Wes) Smith

MLML/MPSL

Autumn Bonnema
 Scot Lucas

State Board

OIMA/SWAMP

Tessa Fojut
 Andrew Hamilton
 Jennifer Salisbury

Regional Boards

R1: Rich Fadness, Mike Thomas
 R2: Gerardo Martinez
 R3: Melissa Daugherty
 R4: Laura Le
 R5: Cecile Mioni, Heather Staplin
 R6: Laurie Scribe
 R7:
 R8: Heather Boyd, Emily Ferrill, Jason Freshwater
 R9: Carey Kowalski, Chad Loflen

Water Quality Monitoring Council

Nick Martorano (OIMA/SWAMP)

Other

Jesica Cleaver (San Diego County Water Authority)
 Joe Guzman (County of Orange)
 Paula Jewell (Camp Pendleton)
 Duyen Kauffman (Biomonitoring California)
 Isabel Kent (Morro Bay National Estuary Program)
 Joann Lee (County of San Diego)
 Alvina Mehinto (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project)
 Mina Ziaei (San Diego County Water Authority)

Item 2. Quick Updates

- See [slides](#) (5-11) and [recording](#) for full discussion

Monitoring Data & Documentation Update

Year	Monitoring Element	Data Status	Document Status (Est. completion date)
2022	Realignment (Region 9)	ETA for organics data available in CEDEN: End of Nov 2024	Cruise Report Data Report (2025*)
	Special Project (Region 3)	ETA for organics data available in CEDEN: Dec 2024	NA - up to R3 project leads to write report

Year	Monitoring Element	Data Status	Document Status (Est. completion date)
2022 con't	Rivers (Region 5)	ETA for data available in CEDEN: Early 2025	Cruise Report Data Report (2025*)
2023	Lakes (Panel 5)	Metals data pushed to CEDEN in Aug 2024! Organics analysis complete! Waiting on data to be submitted to SWAMP IQ. ETA for data available in CEDEN: Early 2025	Cruise Report Data Report (2025*) Interpretive Report (2025)
2024	Coast (Central & Northern CA)	Monitoring complete! Updates shared via STEW Email List ETAs for metals data to be available in CEDEN: May 2025 ETA for organics data available in CEDEN: TBD	Monitoring Plan Cruise Report (2025) Data Report (2025) Interpretive Report (2026)
	PFAS Archive Project	Preparation of Archives: Feb 2025 Ship to Lab for Analysis: Mar 2025 ETA for data available in CEDEN: TBD	TBD
2025	Lakes	NA	Monitoring Plan (2024) Data Report (2026)

* Upon receipt of organics data

Regular Quick Updates

- [New OEHHA fish consumption advisories](#)
 - [Lake Berryessa \(Napa County, Sep 2024\)](#)
 - [Lower Putah Creek and Lake Solano \(Solano and Yolo Counties, Sep 2024\)](#)
 - [Modesto Reservoir \(Stanislaus County, Oct 2024\)](#)
 - *Coming soon:* Lake Casitas (Ventura County; new advisory)
- [Monitoring Council Updates](#)
 - [Next meeting:](#) Dec 20 - Any STEW-centric topics for a future Council Meeting?
 - [Sep 26 Meeting](#) was on eDNA Topics | [Recording](#)
 - Web updates are coming soon!
- [Tribal Bioaccumulation Monitoring Training Series](#)
 - Past training materials available on the [webpage](#)
 - Sep: Bioaccumulation monitoring data QAQC & Tribal data use in the CA Integrated Report - [Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

- Upcoming Trainings:
 - Mon. Dec 2, 2024 (9 am – 12 pm PT): Bioaccumulation monitoring data analysis & interpretation - [Registration Link](#)
 - Tue. Dec 10, 2024 (9 am – 12 pm PT): OEHHA fish consumption advisory development - [Registration Link](#)
- Conferences and Meetings
 - [Tribal EPA & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#) - Oct 22-24, 2024, San José, CA
 - [North American Lake Management Society \(NALMS\) Conference](#) - Nov 5-8, 2024, South Lake Tahoe, CA
 - [National Monitoring Conference](#) - Mar 10-14, 2025, Green Bay, WI
- Other updates from the group
 - [San Francisco Bay RMP](#)
 - [The 2024 Pulse of the Bay: Contaminants of Emerging Concern](#)
 - 2024 Sport fish monitoring update
 - [Delta RMP](#)
 - Interpretive report on seven consecutive years of bass mercury monitoring in development
 - Recent article related to PFAS bioaccumulation in deer and turkey
 - Portland Press Herald. Oct 29. [Deer and wild turkey contaminated with PFAS? What you need to know](#)
 - [Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife advisory webpage](#)

Action Items

- Regarding Future Monitoring Council STEW-centric Topic ideas:
 - All: Email STEW-centric topic idea recommendations to Nick (nicholas.martorano@waterboards.ca.gov)
- Regarding the Tribally-centered Training Series
 - **If you represent a Tribe** and are interested in the Training Series, please [register for the course\(s\) of interest to you!](#)
 - Mon. Dec 2, 2024 (9 am – 12 pm PT): Bioaccumulation monitoring data analysis & interpretation – [Registration Link](#)
 - Tue. Dec 10, 2024 (9 am – 12 pm PT): OEHHA fish consumption advisory development – [Registration Link](#)

Item 3. 2024 Sampling and Analysis Update

2024 sampling took place between Jul and Oct according to the [2024 Coast Monitoring Plan](#). An overview of completed sampling and update on analysis status will be provided.

Discussion

- See [slides](#) (12-16) and [recording](#) for full discussion

- Key updates from presentation:
 - 17 Zones sampled in 3 months. Approximately 630 fish from 17 species collected; top 5 species caught:
 - Black Rockfish (n=125, from 13 Zones)
 - Lingcod (n=106, from 13 Zones)
 - Gopher Rockfish (n=92, from 13 Zones)
 - Blue Rockfish (n=70, from 13 Zones)
 - Brown Rockfish (n=64, from 7 Zones)
 - Collection roadblocks: permit delays, new endangered species, safety concerns
 - Processing & Analysis Update:
 - Mercury results = 28% have been reported to SWAMP IQ
 - Selenium composites = 47% digested, 0% analyzed
 - PCB composite shipping scheduled for Jan 2025
- Why were there low catch numbers in Bodega Harbor?
 - The channel in the harbor is very difficult to sample; local fish and wildlife wardens questioned why sampling crews were even trying to sample there because no one actually fishes there.

Action Items

- MPLS:
 - Finish processing samples, ship organics samples to chemistry lab
 - Develop Cruise Report, work with Anna to distribute and post on website
 - Document things to consider/lessons learned about water bodies for future efforts

Item 4. Final Long-term Monitoring Plan (2025-2029)

The STEW has been discussing Long-term Monitoring Priorities in some capacity since Jan 2023. The draft Long-term Monitoring Plan (2025-2029) that reflects past discussions, feedback, and final priorities was presented in Jul 2024. A summary of feedback that was received by the Sep 1 deadline will be presented, along with the final Long-term Monitoring Plan (2025-2029).

Discussion

- See [slides](#) (17-33) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- For a more detailed review of the Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment Process, see the April 2024 STEW Meeting, Item 3 [Notes](#), [Slides](#), and [Recording](#).
- Presentation of feedback received and overview of final funding tiers in the plan.
 - For a more detailed review of the funding tiers, see the Jul 2024 STEW Meeting, Item 4 [Notes](#), [Slides](#), and [Recording](#).
- Note the importance of partners to elevate the document and the importance of adequately funding the Program and STEW.

- Is there interest in collection of prey fish?
 - Yes! Prey fish is collected as part of our current sampling, and can be prioritized at select locations upon the request of during the Annual Feedback Process.
 - Currently available data can be viewed in the [SWAMP Data Dashboard](#) (recommend filtering by tissue and region of interest).

Action Items

- Jay: Work with Anna to distribute final plan and post on website
- Regional Boards: Start thinking about which year(s) you might want to contribute discretionary / SWAMP funds to leverage already planned Statewide monitoring (sampling, analysis & archives)

Item 5. Final Monitoring Plan for 2025 (Lakes)

The draft Monitoring Plan for 2025 (Lakes) that reflects discussions, feedback, and priorities established during the Long-term Monitoring Priorities Assessment process (Jan 2023 - Apr 2024) was presented in Jul 2024. A summary of feedback that was received by the Sep 1 deadline will be presented, along with the final Monitoring Plan for 2025 (Lakes).

Discussion

- See [slides](#) (35-41) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- Presentation of feedback received and overview of final plan for 2025; draft plan for 2026.
- Note that the table on slide 39 should be revised so that Lake Sonoma and Lake Ralphine are listed in Region 1, not Region 2.

Action Items

- Jay: Work with Anna to distribute and post final plan on website
- MPSL: Submit collection permit, prep for monitoring
- Anna: Prep kick-off materials - distribute to key parties in early 2025
- All: Review Sampling and Analysis Table (see [slide](#) 39), email feedback on analytes and species to Jay (jay@sfei.org) by **Nov 15**.

Item 6. 2025 STEW Meeting Dates

Since 2020, the STEW has scheduled standing quarterly meetings, the majority of which have been from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm on the last Wed of the month in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct, and held over Zoom. During this meeting we will check-in with the STEW on how this has been working for attendees and make a plan for when and how we will meet in 2025.

STEW Co-chairs propose:

- We continue to meet over Zoom to reduce travel costs for attendees and increase the ability for more people to participate.
- 2025 meetings to be scheduled from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm on the last Wed of the month in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Specific dates are: Jan 29, Apr 30, Jul 30, Oct 29.

Discussion

- See [slides](#) (42-45) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- Polls and *majority responses* given during the meeting:
 - Do you have concerns about using Zoom as the virtual meeting platform? *No* (82%).
 - Do you have concerns about keeping the same meeting time as in past years: 9:30 am - 12:30 pm? *No* (91%).
 - Do you have concerns about keeping the same meeting frequency as in past years: last Wed of the month in Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct? *No* (91%).

Action Items

- Anna: Schedule zoom meetings, post registration links on website, send to STEW
- All:
 - Review the [Meetings page](#) and register for Zoom calls, download calendar invites.
 - Email anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov with future STEW meeting speaker/topic recommendations.

Item 7. Wrap-up and Adjourn

Review action items & agenda items for the next meeting.

Discussion

- See [slides](#) (46-53) and [recording](#) for full discussion
- No additional questions or discussion.

Action Items

- Anna: complete the following, send to STEW email list once complete:
 - Post Oct 30 meeting materials and recording on the [Meetings page](#)
 - Post Oct 30 meeting notes on the [Meetings page](#)

Upcoming STEW Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Focus (<i>Tentative</i>)	Meeting Resources
Jan. 29, 2025 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Report Timelines Update Final 2021 Lakes (Panel 4) Data Report Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Realignment Update	Registration Link*
Apr. 30, 2025 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Draft 2023 Lakes (Panel 5) Data Report Draft Lakes Interpretive Report (2015-2023) Part 1: Metals	Registration Link*
Jul. 30, 2025 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	Final 2023 Lakes (Panel 5) Data Report Final Lakes Interpretive Report (2015-2023) Part 1: Metals Draft Monitoring Plan for 2026 (Lakes) AB 762 - Fish and Shellfish Health Advisory Postings	Registration Link*
Oct. 29, 2025 9:30 am - 12:30 pm PT	2025 Sampling and Analysis Update Final Monitoring Plan for 2026 (Lakes) 2026 OEHHA Fish Advisory Development Priorities 2026 STEW Meeting Dates	Registration Link*

* Attendee can register for multiple STEW meetings at one time